

# REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved  
OMB No. 0704-0188

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1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY)		2. REPORT TYPE Technical Papers		3. DATES COVERED (From - To)	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER 2362	
				5e. TASK NUMBER MIG 2	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Air Force Research Laboratory (AFMC) AFRL/PRS 5 Pollux Drive Edwards AFB CA 93524-7048				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Air Force Research Laboratory (AFMC) AFRL/PRS 5 Pollux Drive Edwards AFB CA 93524-7048				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT  Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT  A	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON Leilani Richardson
a. REPORT Unclassified	b. ABSTRACT Unclassified	c. THIS PAGE Unclassified			19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code) (661) 275-5015

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 8-98)  
Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39.18

36 separate files are enclosed

20110111

TP-FY99-0144

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✓ Spreadsheet  
✓ DTS

MEMORANDUM FOR PRS (Contractor/In-House Publication)

FROM: PROI (TI) (STINFO)

15 June 1999

SUBJECT: Authorization for Release of Technical Information, Control Number: AFRL-PR-ED-TP-FY99-0144  
Tim Miller, "Mixed-Mode Fracture in a Rubbery Particulate Matrix"

6<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Composites  
Vu/Graphs

(Public Release)

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# Mixed-Mode Fracture in a Rubbery Particulate Composite

Timothy C. Miller  
Air Force Research Laboratory

Sixth Annual International Conference on Composites  
Engineering  
Orlando, Florida  
June/July 1999

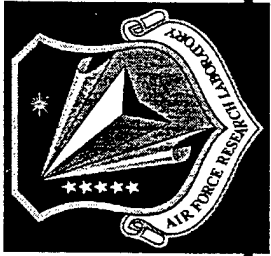
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# Outline of Presentation

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- Introduction
  - What is the problem?
  - How do we solve the problem?
- Experimental Procedure
  - Procedure Followed
  - Difficulties Encountered
- Results
  - Crack Initiation Toughness Results
  - Kink Angle Results
  - Crack Growth Results
- Conclusions and Recommendations for Future Work



# Problem Statement

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## Reasons for Examining Mixed-Mode Cracking

- Damage During Manufacture or Handling May Cause Cracks That Are Later Subjected to Mixed-Mode Loading
- Cracks Near or at Interfaces Are Inherently Mixed-Mode Cracks
- Analysis of Mixed-Mode Cracking is Substantially More Complicated Than for Mode I Cracks



# Method of Solution

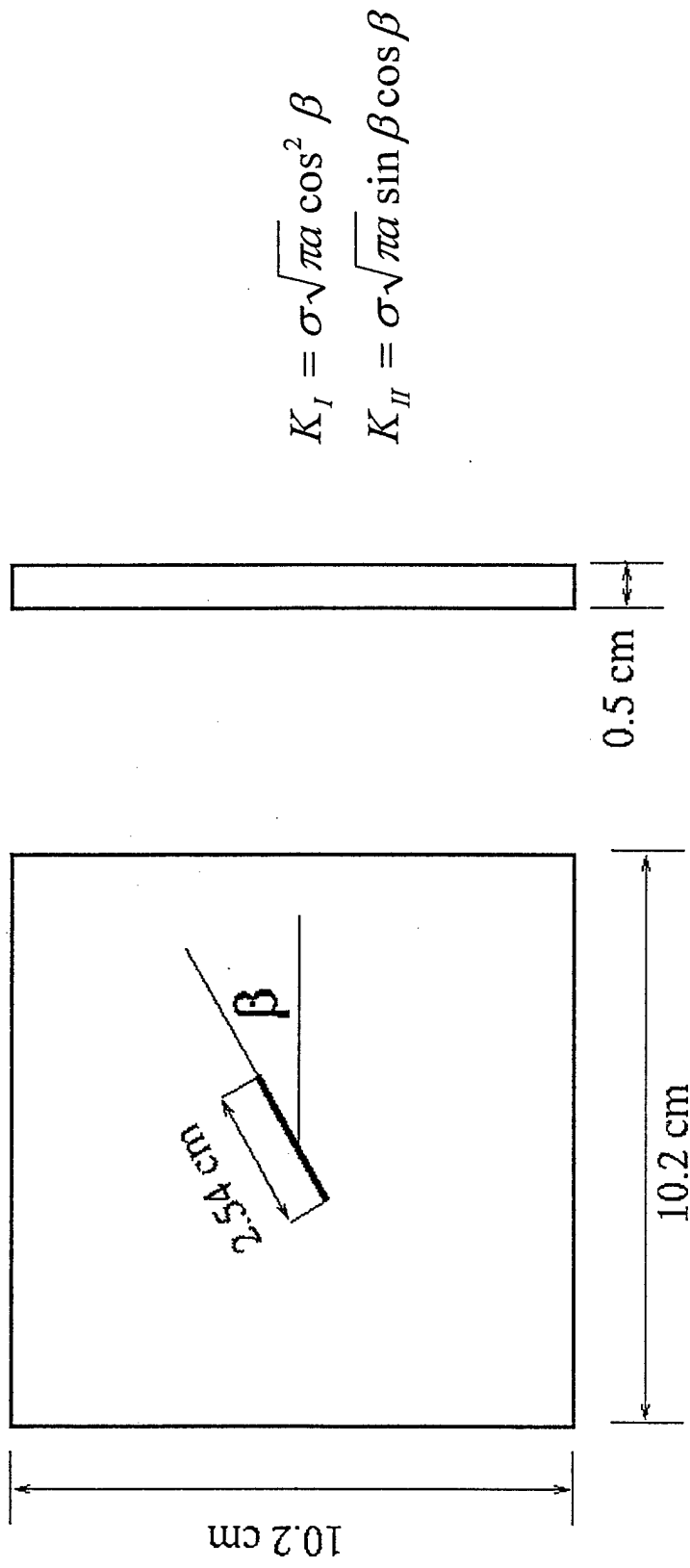
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- Test Various Mixed-Mode Specimens
  - Measure Load at Initiation
  - Measure Crack Length (Simplified Manner) Versus Time
  - Measure Kink Angle
- Use Finite Elements and Experimental Load Measurements to Determine Fracture Parameters at Initiation of Growth
- Use Crack Length Versus Time to Determine Simplified Crack Growth Model
- Use Kink Angle Measurements to Determine if Available Theories Can Adequately Predict Growth Direction



# Specimen Geometry for Mixed-Mode Testing

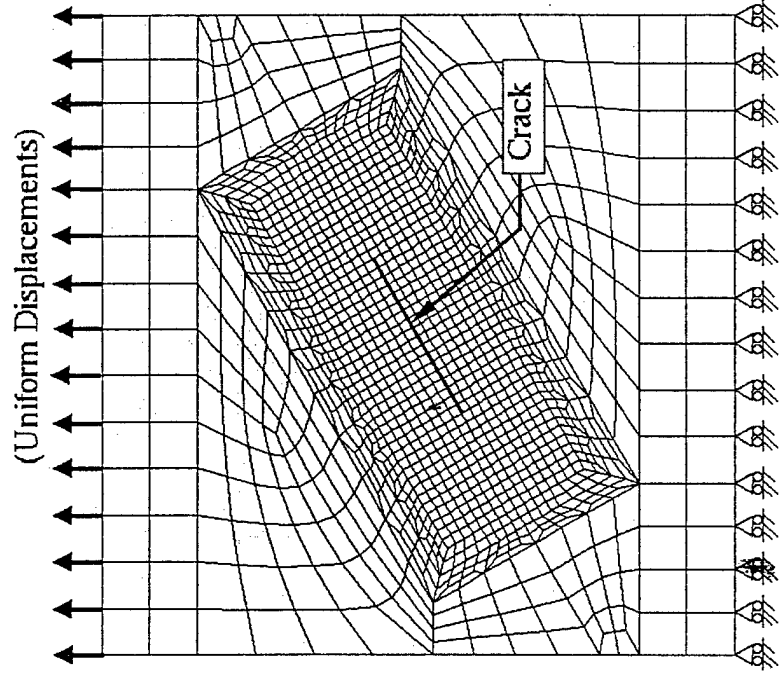
Crack Angles Used Are 0 (Mode I), 15, 30, 45, and 60 Degrees





# Sample Finite Element Mesh for Computational Models

Displacement Boundary Conditions Are Used, Crack  
Orientation Shown Here is 30 Degrees

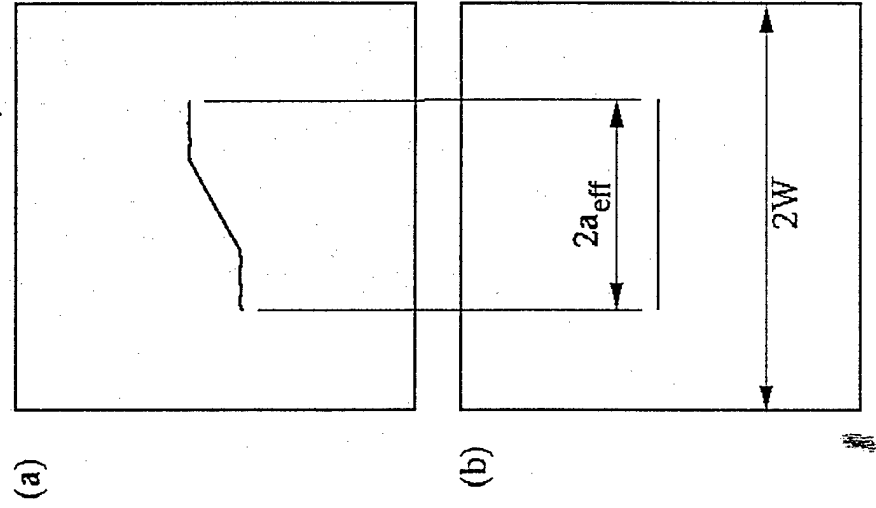






# Modeling Mixed-Mode Crack Growth Using a Simplified Approach

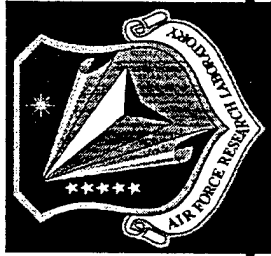
Simplified Geometry Can Be Used to Analyze Crack Growth Rates Successfully





## Difficulties Encountered

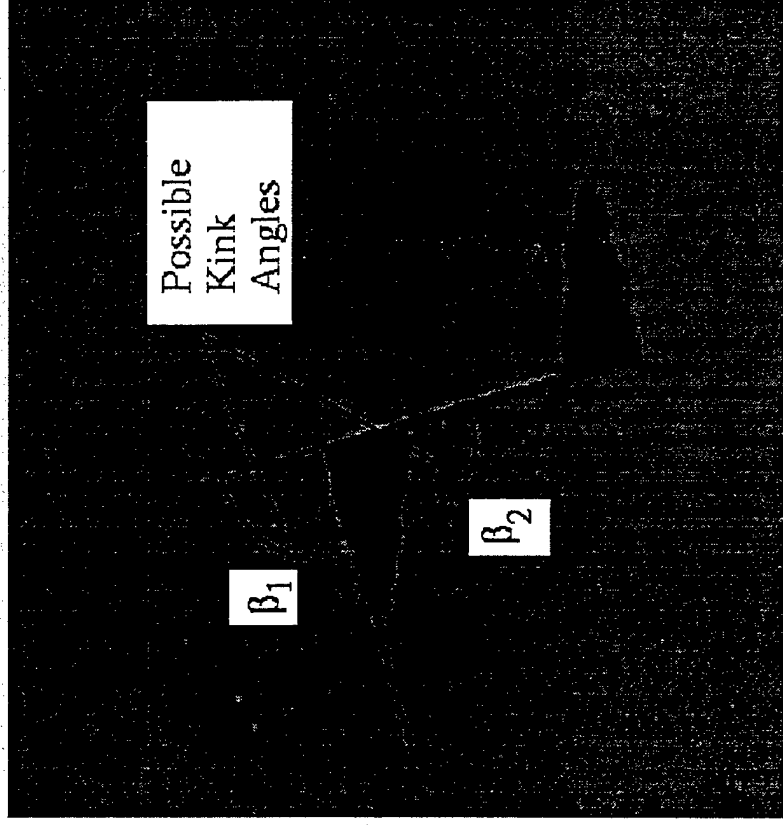
- Large Deformations Make In-Situ Determination of Kink Angles Difficult
- Mixed-Mode Initiation Toughness Locus is Linked to Micromechanisms That Are Poorly Understood
- Linear Elasticity May Not Be Valid



# Crack in a Propellant Specimen Shortly After Initiation of Crack Growth

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Large Deformations Make Kink Angle Determination  
Ambiguous





# Ligament Bridging Near the Crack Tip in a Rubbery Composite Specimen

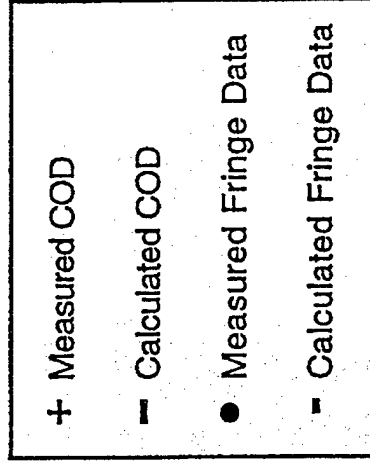
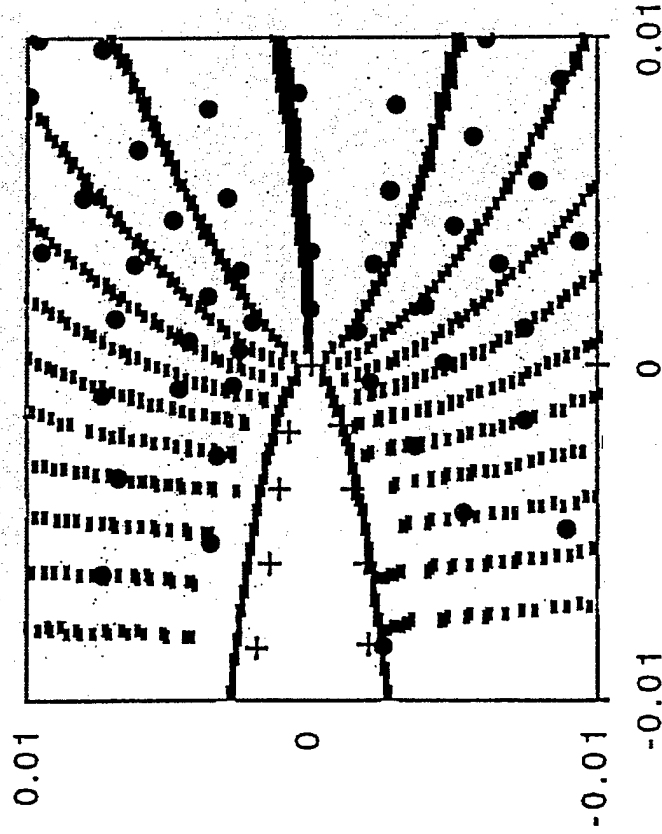
Mechanisms Such as Ligament Bridging May Account for Shape of  
Mixed-Mode Failure Locus in a Rubbery Particulate Composite





# Experimental and Computed Moiré Fringes and Crack Opening Displacements for a Rubbery Particulate Composite

Good Agreement Shows That Linear Elastic Fracture Mechanics Works Well



SLIDE WILL BE REMOVED  
FOR MEETING TO SHOW  
EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS  
CLEANLY



## Results

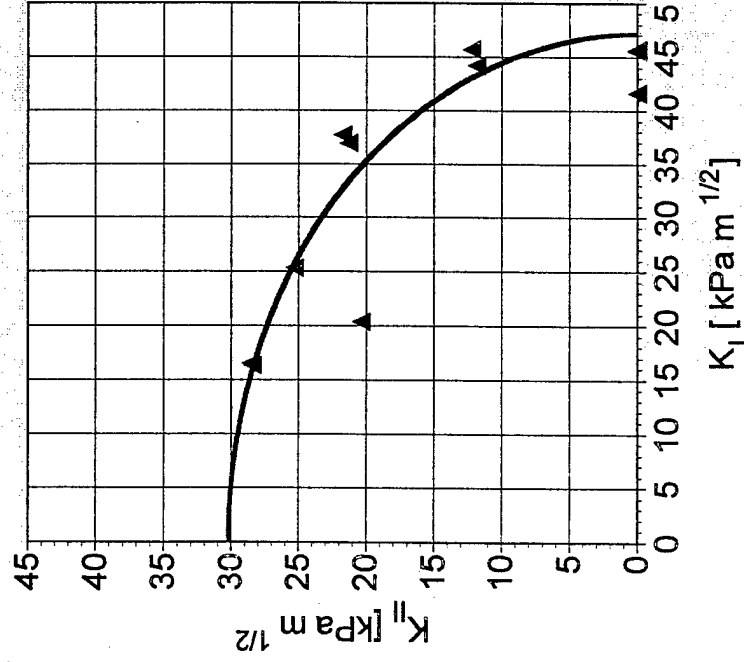
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- Results for Initiation Toughness Show That Elliptical Curve Fit Works Well
- Results for Kink Angle Determinations Show More Deviation From Theory Than Expected
- Use of Simplified Approach to Predict Crack Growth Rate Works Well



# Elliptical Failure Locus for Initiation of Crack Growth

Unlike the Failure Locus for Metals, the Mode I Fracture Toughness is Higher Than its Mode II Counterpart

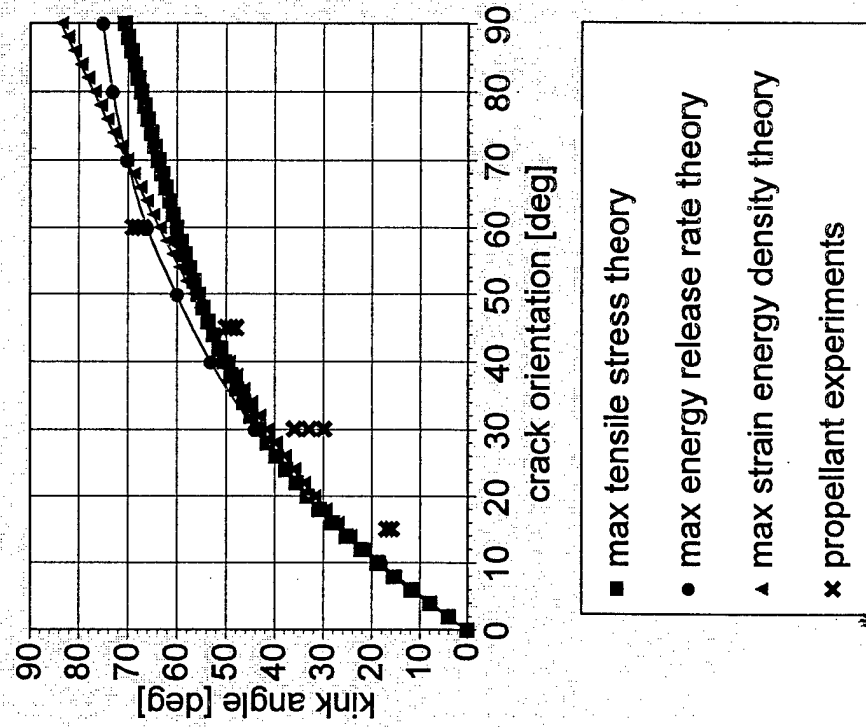


$$\left[\frac{K_I}{K_{IC}}\right]^2 + \left[\frac{K_{II}}{K_{IIC}}\right]^2 = 1$$



# Kink Angles Plotted as a Function of Crack Orientation Angle

Experimental Results Show Some Deviation From Existing Theories

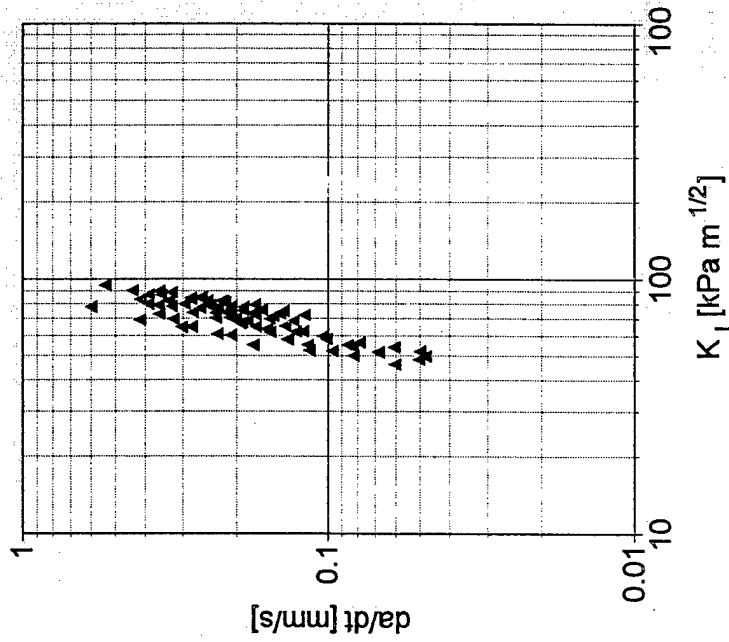






# Effective Crack Growth Rate for the Mixed-Mode Experiments as a Function of Stress Intensity

Use of Simplified Approach Shows Agreement Even With Different Levels of Mode Mixity



$$\frac{da_{eff}}{dt} = CK_I^m$$

## Conclusions



- Although rubbery particulate composites have viscoelastic properties, high elongations, and complicated failure mechanisms, they can be studied, for a given nominal strain rate, using linear elastic fracture mechanics.
- The complex stress intensity factor failure locus is elliptical.
- The kink angles match available theories best at higher levels of mixity. The best theory appears to be Strain Energy Density Theory, but all of the theories made similar predictions.
- A simplified approach that uses an equivalent mode I crack can be used to predict the crack growth rate for mixed-mode cracks